

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 OMB-01 /059 W

-----280244Z 018974 /20

R 272139Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4573

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PE

SUBJ: GOP DECREES LABOR DAY AND MOTHERS' DAY AMNESTY FOR
314 PRISONERS

1. PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ PROMULGATED TWO DECREES ON APRIL 26 GRANTING AMNESTY TO 314 INDIVIDUALS EITHER CONVICTED OF A CRIME AND SERVING SENTENCE, OR DETAINED PENDING OUTCOME OF TRIAL. THE FIRST DECREE, IN COMMEMORATION OF MOTHERS' DAY, PROVIDES FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL FREEDOM OF NINE WOMEN SERVING SENTENCES AND SUSPENDS ONGOING CRIMINAL PENAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST AN ADDITIONAL 27 WOMEN, GRANTING THEM FREEDOM BUT MAKING THEM LIABLE FOR POSSIBLE CIVIL CHARGES RELATED TO CRIMES FOR WHICH THEY ARE CHARGED.

2. THE SECOND DECREE, WHOSE PREAMBLE RELATES THE AMNESTY TO THE CELEBRATION OF LABOR DAY ON MAY 1, GRANTS FREEDOM TO 98 MEN AND ONE WOMAN PRESENTLY SERVING SENTENCES, AND SUSPENDS CRIMINAL PENAL PROCEEDINGS CURRENTLY IN PROCESS AGAINST 167 MEN AND 12 WOMEN, GRANTING THEM FREEDOM CONDITIONAL ON ANY POSSIBLE CIVIL CHARGES.

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3. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THOSE AMNESTIED ARE PROBABLY COMMON CRIMINALS WHOSE CONDUCT WHILE IN DETENTION AND POTENTIAL FOR REHABILITATION ARE CONSIDERED GOOD. OF THE NAMES LISTED IN THE SECOND DECREE, ONLY SIX ARE FAMILIAR TO US AS POSSIBLE "POLITICAL PRISONERS". THEY ARE: LUIS BRITO CRABTREE, A MEXICAN EX-PRIEST WHO WAS ARRESTED IN JUNE 1975 FOR VANGUARDIA REVOLUCIONARIA (VR)-RELATED ACTIVITIES AND IS SERVING A 15-YEAR SENTENCE; JACKELINE

ELAN LOBATON, THE WIDOW OF MIR LEADER GUILLERMO LOBATON WHO WAS KILLED IN 1965; AND FORTUNATO BRAULIO TELLO, THE SIDERPERU LABOR UNION LEADER WHO WAS ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER 1976 AND IN WHOM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) HAS SHOWN A RECENT INTEREST. AI CASES ROBERTO ROMERO ARCE AND SANTOS ANDRES HUGUET POLO (SEE LIMA 2874) AND JORGE ZUMARAN PAZ (LIMA 2224) ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN AMNESTY. OTHER PERUVIANS OF INTEREST TO AI, ALFREDO PEZO PAREDES, OSCAR PEREZ MANRIQUE, RAUL RODRIGUEZ CHALCO (LIMA 1983) AND CARLOS REFAEL DOMINGUEZ MARTINEZ (LIMA 2229) ARE NOT ON LISTS. NO U.S. CITIZENS WERE NAMED IN EITHER DECREE.

4. THE LARGE-SCALE AMNESTY AT THIS PARTICULAR TROUBLED TIME FOR THE MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE MOTIVATIONS. THE RELEASE OF CONVICTED PRISONERS AND THOSE ON TRIAL WILL RELIEVE SOMEWHAT THE TERRIBLY OVERCROWDED PERUVIAN JAILS AND EASE BURDENED COURT CALENDARS. THE AMENSTY IS ALSO PROBABLY A PART OF A CAREFULLY-ORCHESTRATED PLAN TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE EVE OF THE ANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNPOPULAR ECONOMIC MEASURES, INCLUDING INCREASED GASOLINE PRICES AND A NEW LABOR STABILITY LAW MORE FAVORABLE TO INDUSTRY. INCLUDED IN THIS HYPOTHETICAL PLAN WOULD BE THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WORKERS WILL BE PAID GUADRUPLE FOR LABOR DAY BECAUSE IT FALLS ON A SUNDAY, AND THE MILGOV'S RATIFICATION OF MORALES BERMUDEZ AS PRESIDENT BEYOND HIS JANUARY 1978 OBLIGATORY RETIREMENT FROM THE ARMY (SEE LIMA 3298).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIMA03420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770148-0029
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770415/aaaaamfi.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1453c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2681476
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP DECREES LABOR DAY AND MOTHERS' DAY AMNESTY FOR 314 PRISONERS
TAGS: SHUM, PORS, PGOV, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1453c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009